

Commercial Striped Bass Industry Work Group Subcommittee Meeting



January 31st, 2012

Meeting Agenda

- Reflection on Last Meeting / Looking Ahead
 - Summary of discussion / Comments heard
 - Expectation of this meeting
 - Thoughts on 2013 and 2014
- Facts and Lessons Learned (VA and PRFC Fisheries)
 - Specific management methods used by other Bay jurisdictions
 - Tag Based v. Weight Based management
- Maryland Statistics – Requested by Subcommittee
 - Details regarding MDs striped bass fishery
- Marketing Advantages with Alternative Management – S. Vilnit
- Adjourn

Challenges Uncovered / Comments Heard

Challenges Facing the Commercial Striped Bass Industry

- Increasing PN permits are causing gear allocation problems
- Latent Effort – HL and GN fisheries
- There are incentives for illegal activity – Misreporting/Gears
- Financial Resources / Micro-management
- Lack of flexibility / Openings and Closings



“Latent effort is a major problem that we must take care of – it needs to be fixed” Gibby

“We all have to think really hard about all of this...stop worrying about the past and how we all did things – but focus on the future and the next generation waterman” Ben

“Watermen need to stop worrying so much about pounds of fish and start thinking more about price per pound” Billy

“Full Time watermen need additional considerations if we go to Catch Shares” Unknown

Expectations / Upcoming Seasons

Recommendation from this Committee

- We need to report back to the Full Striped Bass Workgroup
- This Committee will need to decide if we should continue to explore 'Catch Shares' in the commercial SB Fishery



Thoughts on 2013 and 2014

- We thought we could address the issues we talked about before the next Declaration of Intent
- Timeline is too short
- If the Industry determines that Catch Shares are the way to go – Looking at 2014 at the earliest

Potential Regulations for 2013??

- Only 1 gear (break up the combo permit)
- Freeze/Cap the number of PN permits
- Hold Gear quotas steady

ITQs / Catch Shares in VA & PRFC

Although both VA and PRFC managed their commercial striped bass fisheries under an ITQ system...they are very different in their approach

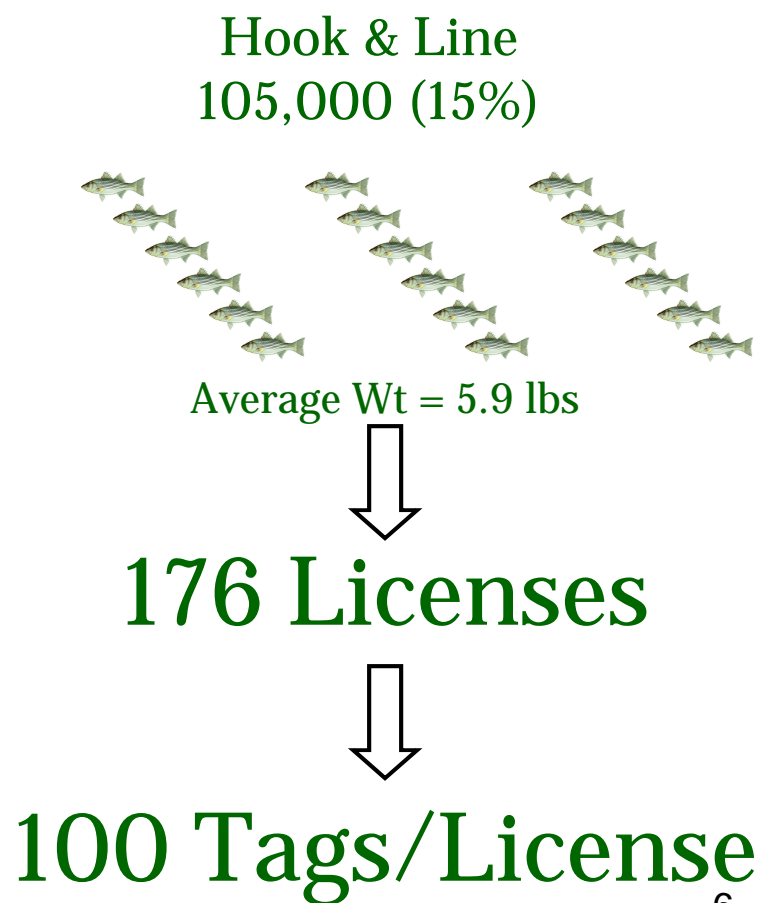
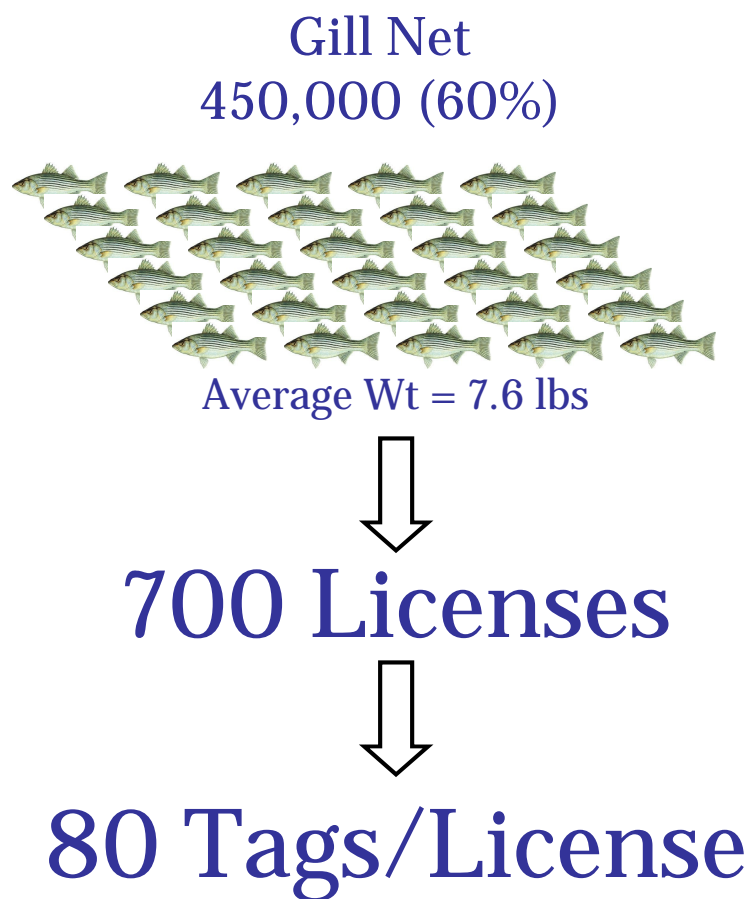
Potomac River – Tag Based System

- Tag based management system...One Tag = One Fish
- Tags are allocated across Gear Types (GN, HL, PN, Misc.)
 - Historical distribution of catch from the 1990s
 - Gear Licenses (Permits) are limited (i.e. 100 PN, 700 GN)
- Each License can be thought of as a 'Share' in the fishery
 - Each 'Share' receives a specific Allocation of Tags – based on yearly Quota
 - Also, the number of tags are different between gears (quota/licenses/ave. wt)
 - GN has larger quota than HL...but
 - HL fish are smaller & there are fewer permits

Lets Look at an Example of this:

How Does it Work in the Potomac

2012 Annual Quota: ~740,000 pounds



How Does it Work in the Potomac

Tag Based System:

- PRFC uses # of tags to manage harvest
- Weight landed analyzed at the end of the year
 - Counts on some quota remaining / non-active licenses
 - Overages, if any, are deducted from next years quota calculations

Active License Holders:

- Based on Conversations with A.C. @ PRFC
 - GN – 95%
 - PN – 95%
 - HL – 60%
- This is significantly different from MD

“We tried one time to do it like you guys do...lots of screaming and yelling – never again as long as I am here...(chuckle)” **A.C. Carpenter**

Virginia

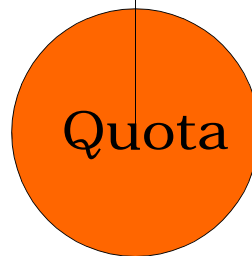
Pre-ITQ (1990 – 1997):

- After the SB Moratorium, VA opened its fishery and managed their quota like we currently do
 - Participation / Permits varied over the years as limited entry was established and criteria were developed to address who was eligible to fish
 - 1991 – 865 people permitted
 - 1995 – New permit requirements: (Valid License, SB permit in the past, Reporting Mandatory...)
 - Used lottery system to add participants

1997 – VMRC decided to pursue ‘Individual Quotas’:

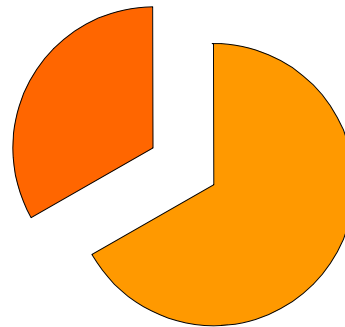
- A subcommittee was formed to discuss this matter and determine how the allocation would be calculated
- This resulting in the following recommendation:

Virginia



Part Time Watermen

- 1/3 of the Quota
- Either had \$5,000 in sales
- OR
- Held gear licenses 5 of 10 years



Full Time Watermen

- 2/3 of the Quota
- 60% of AGI from the water

This method was used for only 1 year – In 1998,
VA initiated a Catch Share Program

Virginia

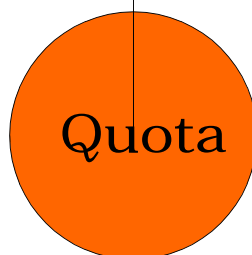
1998 Initial ITQ Program

- Eligibility Requirements
 1. A valid commercial license
 2. The appropriate gear license (this would be like our permit/declaration)
 3. Any historical landings in the fishery from 1970 - 1997

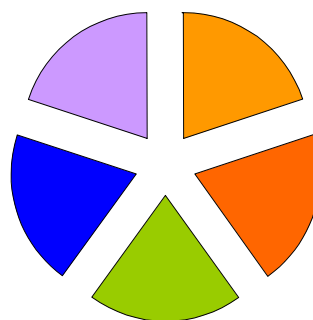
Development of Shares

- VMRC used historical harvest data to allocate the quota to the gears used in the fishery
- All fishermen in a particular gear would get the same % share
- But, % shares for each gear were different
- I am assuming that this is due to a limited number of 'Gear Licenses'

Virginia



Based on Historical Harvest Records, the Quota was allocated to each of the gears



GN PN HS FKN H&L

Fishermen hold 'Gear Licenses' and each license gets a % share



GN	PN	HS	FKN	H&L
(0.14%)	(0.52%)	(0.35%)	(0.39%)	(0.04%)

If the quota in 1998 was 1.4 M lbs: **1,960** **7,280** **4,900** **5,460** **560**

Virginia

Participants, Transfers, and Shares

- Initially, there were approximately 1,200 participants – share holders
- After transfers took place – 575 fishermen remained
- After 10 years...Share holders consolidated to 364 participants
- Individual Quota Ranged from 10 lbs to 35,000 lbs
- Quota Cap - No individual can hold more than 2% of the quota

Tag Based System – One Fish...One Tag

- Started out just like PRFC
- Problems were identified...Average weights over time (River/Bay)

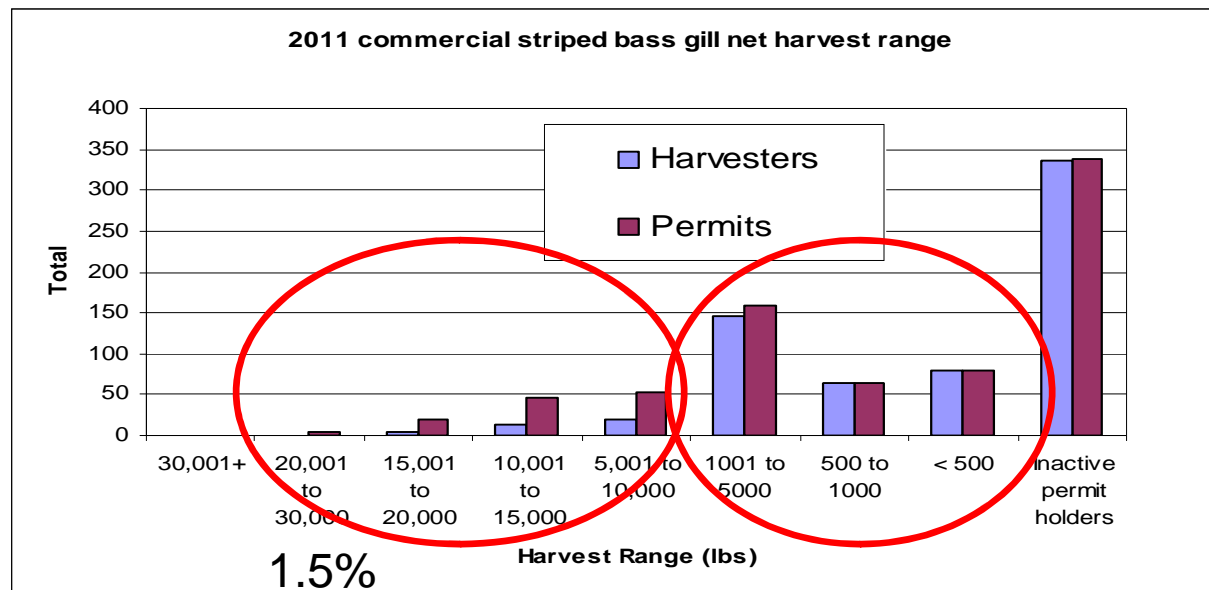
Moved to a Weight-Based System in 2007

- Proven to be effective
- More fair and conservation-minded

Maryland Statistics

Gill Net Fishery

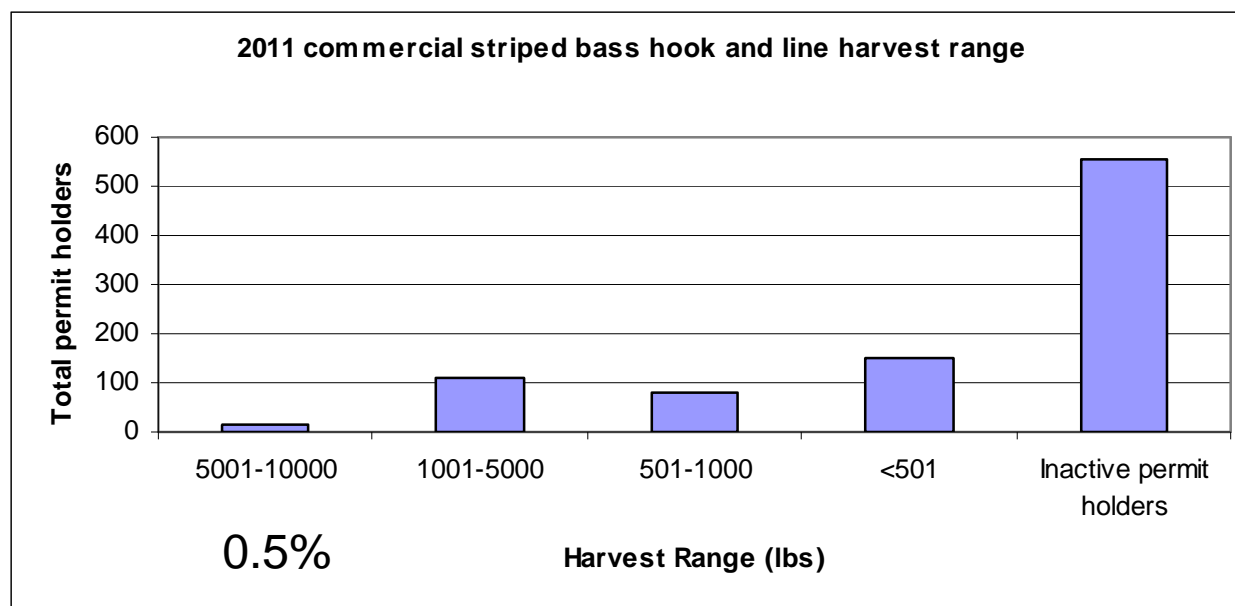
- 662 people hold a GN permit
- Only 327 people actually use it (49%)
 - 88% catch less than 5,000 lbs – (288 people)
 - 12% catch more than 5,000 lbs – (39 people)



Maryland Statistics

Hook & Line Fishery

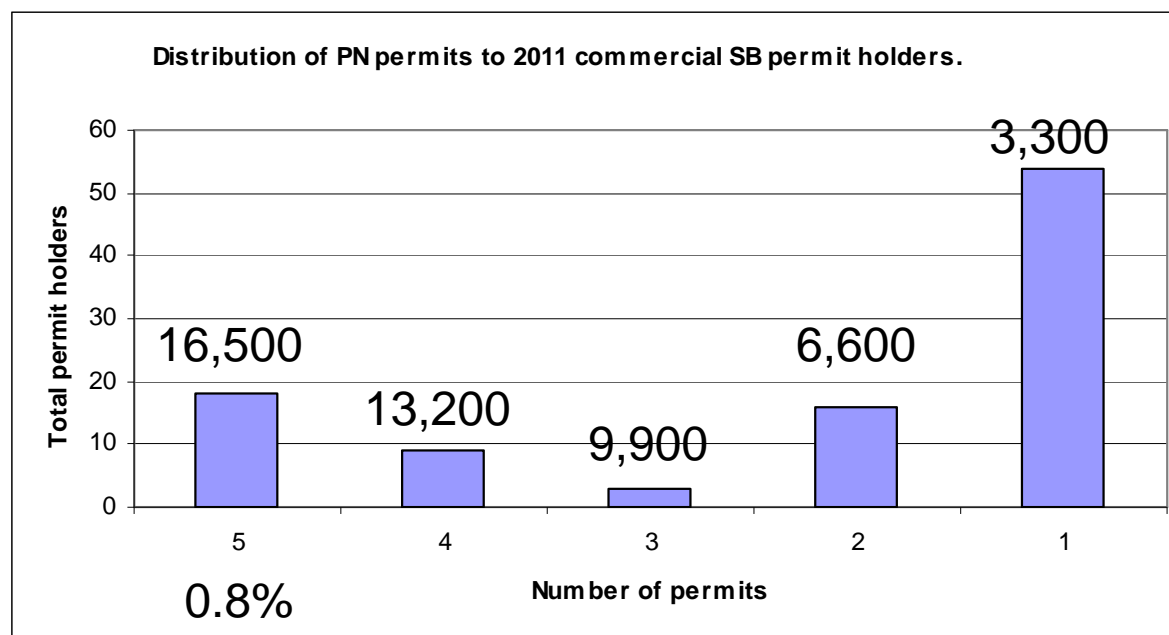
- 910 people hold a H&L permit
- Only 357 people actually use it (39%)
 - 96% catch less than 5,000 lbs – (341 people)
 - 4% catch more than 5,000 lbs – (16 people)



Maryland Statistics

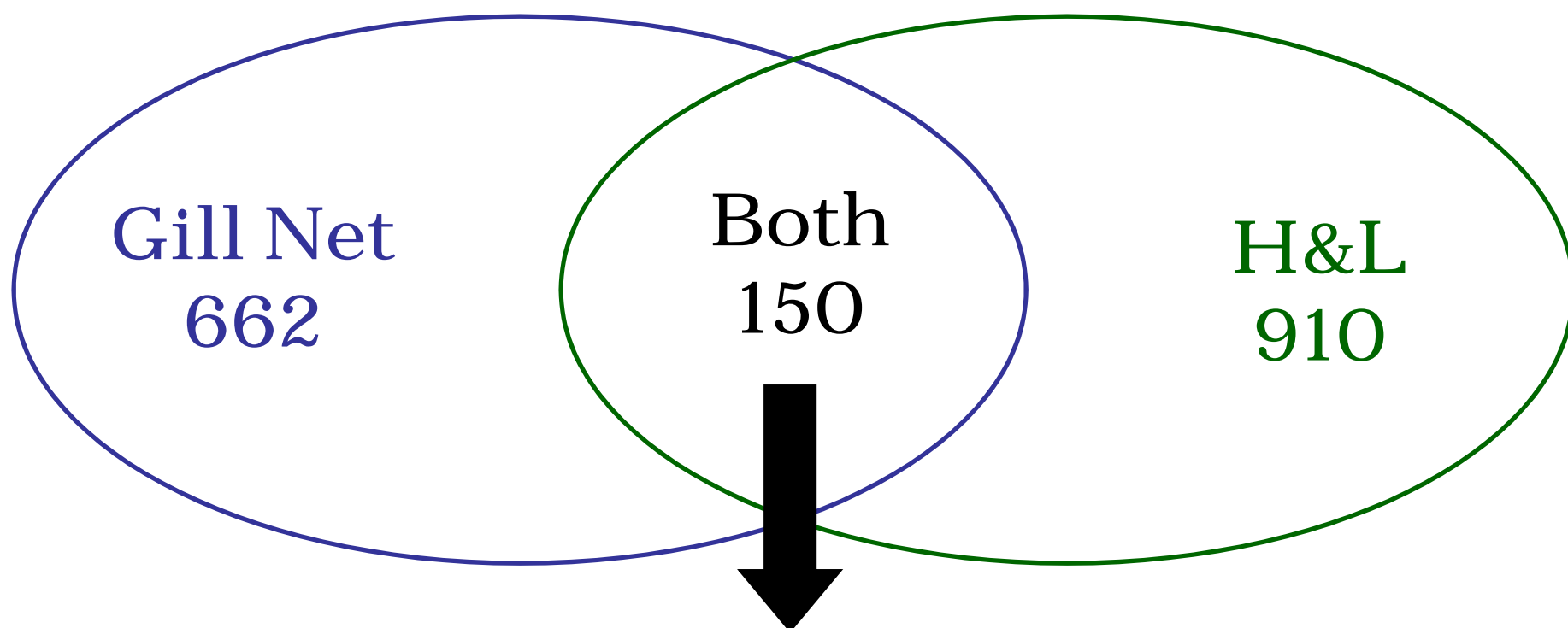
Pound Net Fishery

- 100 people hold a PN permit
- 4 inactive permits in 2011
- Potential Landings Listed



Maryland Statistics

Fishery Overlap – Participate in GN and H&L

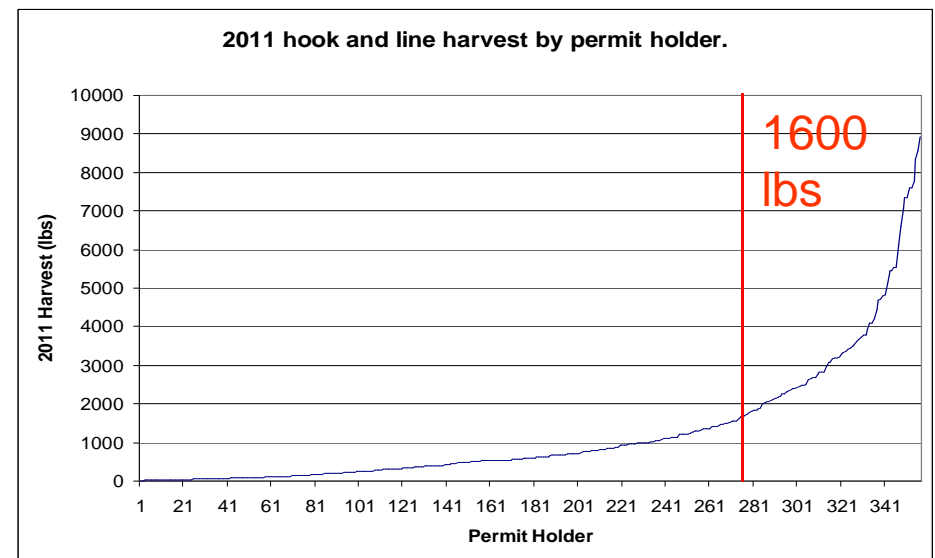
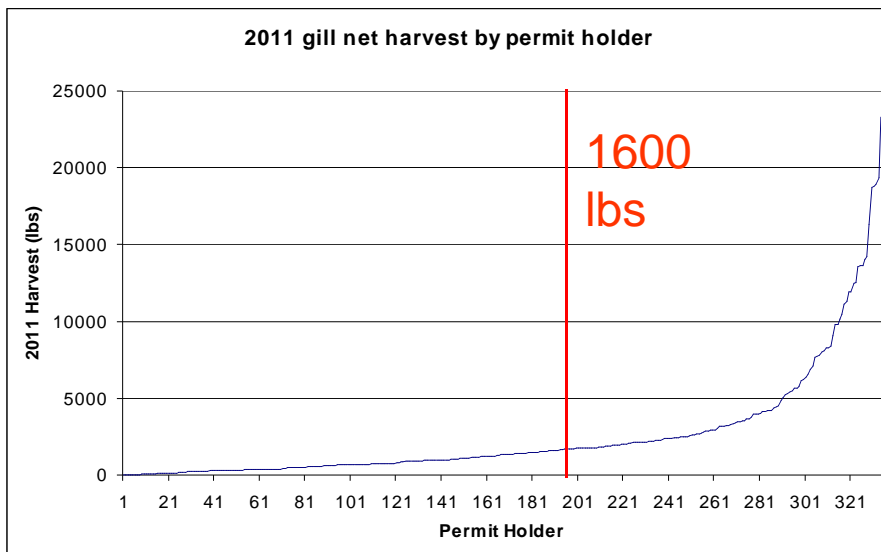


76% of these harvesters are catching less than 5,000 lbs

Equal Allocation?

How would this impact active GN and H&L fishermen

- With a quota of approximately 1.9 M Lbs
- 1231 Striped Bass Permits
- An equal allocation would be approximately 1,600 lbs
 - This is equal to a share of 0.08%



Report to TFAC

1. The 'Full' Commercial SB Industry Workgroup recommended to the Department that we establish the 2012 gear specific allocations by shifting 150,000 lbs of quota into the pound net fishery to account for the increase in PN permits.
 - 75% of this shift would come from the H&L Quota
 - 25% of this shift would come from the GN Quota
2. The Subcommittee recommended to the Department that we do not allow individuals that complete a permanent business transfer of a SB Permit to 'Re-Declare' that permit outside of the August declaration period until a solution to the problem can be determined
 - This was vetted through the full Industry Workgroup in a letter in Mid-January
 - No feedback opposing this action was received